THE COUNTREY-MISER OR THE Unhappy Farmers DEAR MARKET.

Giving the true Account of the Rich Farmer near *Emsted* in *Essex*; Who with several others of his Neighbour Farmers, coming to *Emsted* Market, where they endeavoured to hold up the Price of their Corn to an Extortionable Rate, to the great Oppression, especially of the Poorer sort:

Missing of their Expectations, the Rich Farmer, in a great Passion, Swore *the Devil should have all his Corn before he would take the honest price they offered him.*

Upon which, soon after the Devil came to him in the shape of a Countrey Chap, and after some Discourse, agreed to give him his Extortionable Price, for Thirty Load, paying Five Pounds in hand, the Corn to be deliver'd on a certain day.

Of the Corn in one of the Farmers Barns being Eaten up and Spoiled by a strange sort of Vermine.

In the mean time, the Farmer calling to Remembrance his Rash Wish, was strangely troubled in mind; fearing he had Sold his Corn to the Devil; upon which, by the Advice of his Neighbours, *Mr. R. K.* a Minister was sent for. Also, of his safe Delivery from the hands of Satan by the special Advice and Directions of the said Reverend Divine.

Licensed according to Order.

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A Full and True Account of a Farmar at *Emsted*, who Sold the Devil Thirty Load of Wheat: Also of his safe Delivery from the Hands of Satan, by the Advice of a Reverend Divine.

AMongst the many Remarkable Instances we have had of the Almighties Displeasure, towards those who through there rash Expressions and Protestations, have made themselves liable to Gods Vengence, who tollerates *Satan* to become the powerful Instrument of making those perso s the wicked Examples oftentimes of their passionate and hasty Imprecations, as a warning to others; How they become guilty of so dangerous a folly. And for a further Demonstration of Gods peculiar notice of this perticular Crime. *I shall give you a following Relation which is Justified for an Inevitable Truth, by many Creditable Persons whose Reputable assertion of this matter, is sufficent to establish a belief amongst all such who are not Obstinately Incredulous.*

A Farmer living a small distance from the Town of *Emsted* (whose Name for his Reputations sake we are desired to forbear mentioning) came about three weeks ago with a Load of Wheat, to *Emsted* Market with full hopes of disposing of it, to a more then Ordinary

dinary advantage, Corn being risen that week to an Extraordinary Price; which other Farmers as well as himself having a knowledg off, who being all equally greedy of their gain brought a more then usual quantity to Market, which the Buyers observing prudently resolved to undermine their purposed Ends, which the unreasonable Farmers to themselves had made by biding an Indifferent Rate, hoping by that means they should lower their Extravagant Price, and hinder them of that unreasonable Exaction which they could not vindicate by pleading any manner of Necessity *(God be thanked)* that and all other places in *England*, being Stor'd with a sufficient plenty.

A person with an Intention to buy, coming to one Farmer above the rest whose Name we shall omit for the Reasons above mentioned, and asking him the Price of this Corn he required an Extravagant Rate for it, at which the Buyer seem'd to be much surpriz'd, and bid him a Reasonable Price, at which he expected it might be afforded with an answerable profit. *The Farmer in answer to this broke out into great Indignation*, saying, *the Devil should have all the Corn he had, before any of his Grain should be bought at so Ordinary a Rate*, at which the Chapman went away to try it he could mend himself in some other part of the Market.

He had not been gone long, but another person came dress't up in a Rusty black Garb, having the appearance of an old Miser, did ask him likewise the Price of his Corn, the

Farmer

Farmer Immediately ſhews him a Sample of it, asking him the the ſame Rate as he had done the other; the old Gentleman ſeem'd to have great liking towards the Corn and bid him within a very ſmall matter of what he had required of him, and further requeſted of him what quantity he had in all of the ſame Corn by him, which he could Warrant to be full as good as that. *The Farmer anſwered about thirty Load, which he would engage upon his Word ſhould fall no ways ſhort of that in goodneſs which he had already ſhow'd him.* The old Gentleman replying he had an occaſion for ſuch a Parcel declairing if they could agree he would take it all off his hands, and give him five Prond earneſt for the whole Quantity before they parted.

The Farmer finding his Chapman had ſo great a likeing to his Corn, ſtill perſiſted in his Avaritious Inclinations and proteſted he would not bate any thing of the Price he had already asked him; *to which the Buyer replyed he was a very hard and unreaſonable Dealer, but however ſince he ſaw his Grain was good and fit for his purpoſe, rather then go without he would give him his Price, and agree with him for the whole Quantity.* Whereupon the Farmer was much pleaſed at his meeting with ſo generous a Chapman, and deſired to drink his mornings draught with him, *(to which they both agreed)* and went to the Red-Lyon where they drank two Tankards of Ale very amicably together, after which the Chapman according to his Propoſals gave him five Pound Earneſt,

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and appointed a day when the Corn ſhould be got ready, and he would then pay him the reſt of his Mony, and bring his Teems in Order to Clear the Barn, this being fully agreed on by both Parties, they parted wiſhing one another much happineſs till their next meeting.

The Farmar for the preſent being well pleaſed with the thoughts of the advantage, he propoſed by ſo good a bargain quitted the Market, and returned home with his Corn well ſatisfied till the next day taking the matter into his more ſerious Conſideration, began to wonder who this Perſon ſhould be who had given ſo generous a Price for his whole ſtock, wondering that before he had never ſeen him in the Market; from theſe Conſiderations ſprang a great many doubts and jealouſies which encreaſed every moment till it brought him under great diſſatisfaction of mind, renewing in his memory the raſh Inconſiderate Expreſſions he had uſed in the Market, *(viz.) that the Devil ſhould have his Corn before he would abate any thing of his Price.* From whence he concluded it was the *Devil* who had made this agreement with him, which dreadful apprehenſions brought him under great trouble and diſcontent. Inſomuch that his Neighbours took great notice of the Alteration it had cauſed in him, and began ſtrictly to examine into the Occaſion of that great ſorrow with which he ſeem'd to be afflicted, till at laſt their importunate inquiries prevailed with him to declare the Reaſons of

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his diſcompoſure who was immediately adviſed to ſend for a Parſon from *Emſted*, a Gentleman Eminent for his Learning and Piety, and conſult with him what was moſt proper to be done in this matter, accordingly a Meſſenger was diſpatch'd, who return'd with all expedition with the Parſon, who hearing the dangerous circumſtances the Farmer by his unwary words had brought himſelf under, adviſed him to be very careful in the punctual performance of his Bargan; for that if he deviated one Title from his agreement, it would certainly give the *Devil* power over him, whereupon great care was taken that the Corn ſhould be finely dreſt and order'd, with the greateſt nicety Imaginable, and got in a Compleat Readineſs Exactly againſt the time, which the *Devil* had appointed.

A perſon taking upon him *(who was reported to be a Conjurer)* to be ready in the Barn to deliver the Corn to the *Devil* when he ſhould come for it. During which Intermin the Farmer was adviſed to keep his Bed, the Parſon and ſome of the moſt Pious of his Neighbours, offering up their Prayers with him to *Almighty God, to preſerve and protect him from the power of Satan, with whom he had contracted ſo dangerous a Bargain.*

A little before the Devils appearance the Wind began to riſe and Agitate it ſelf into a violent motion: the Sky became darken'd on a ſuddain, and a lowring Cloud began to make its progreſs towards the Farmers Houſe, ſhewing

ing all the dismal signs of Horror and Confusion; one part of it descending amongst some Trees a little distance from the Barn, from whence was heard an amazing clap of Thunder, and immediately was seen two Black Teems of Monstruous Cattle, drawing two large Waggons towards the Barn; Hurrying on with great Expedition, attended by Four ill shap'd Drivers of a *Gygantick Magnitude*, and in the foremost Waggon sat he that made the Bargain, who when he came to the Barn, demanded *where was the Farmer?* the *Conjuror* replying, he was not to be spoke with, but that the Corn was ready, upon which the Devil taking strict notice could not make any manner of Objection; but with an angry Countenance laid down the Remainder of his Money, took up his Corn, and hurried on his Waggons, as if the Devil drove them.

Since this we hear, most of the Corn in another Barn (belonging to same Farmar) has been eaten up or spoiled by a strange sort of Vermine.

Whoever doubts the Truth of what is here inserted, if they will trouble themselves to enquire of any of the *Emsted* Carriers, they may receive from them a Confirmation of this matter for their further satisfaction.

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